

# Town of Fairfax



12 Buck Hollow Road  
Fairfax, VT 05454  
(802) 849-6111

## **Sidewalk Winter Maintenance Policy**

### **Policy Statement**

The purpose of this policy is to outline a clear and consistent process for the clearing of sidewalks during the winter months in a manner that is both reasonable and fiscally responsible. The Town will utilize the guidelines set forth herein in recognition that it is in the interest of residents to have a safe, walkable, and accessible village core throughout the year as allowed by resources and equipment.

During the winter months, sidewalks and paths often become impassable because of the build-up of snow. Historically, the Town has not cleared snow from the sidewalks. The Selectboard recognizes the need to clear sidewalks and paths in our Village Center to provide for consistent safe pedestrian access to the school, library, and recreational facilities. Due to the added service costs associated with equipment and personnel, the Town will provide winter maintenance only to those sections of sidewalk and paths specifically listed in this policy.

Winter maintenance shall be defined under this policy as the clearing of snow from the sidewalk or path.

### **Standards of Service**

The following standards are adopted as part of this policy. The Town will evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and modify it as needed.

1. Road clearing takes precedence over sidewalk clearing.
2. Sidewalk snow removal will be performed only after a minimum of 2" of snow has accumulated as a result of a snowfall event. The Town will attempt to initiate snow removal operations within 24 hours after the end of a storm but will not expend the resources for multiple clearings during a single event. Weather predictions and ongoing events will be considered in determining the initiation of operations.
3. To maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of sidewalk maintenance, the Town will initiate snow removal only after the adjacent public streets have been cleared and it is determined that future plowing will not negate the effort made to clear the sidewalk.
4. The level of service will be limited to what can be provided by mechanical equipment. The Town will not perform handwork. The sidewalks may not be cleared to a dry pavement standard.
5. Limited ice control will be performed by the Town.
6. It is expected that snow may be plowed, blown, or otherwise deposited on the public right-of-way and easements on either side of the sidewalk as needed for the efficiency of operation. Reasonable efforts will be made to not excessively deposit snow in

- driveways or private sidewalks. However, any resultant snow deposits will be the responsibility of the property owner/occupant.
7. The Town will not be responsible for incidental damage to turf, driveways, irrigation systems, or landscaping improvements within the public right-of-way or easements as a result of sand, salt, or mechanical operation.
  8. Pathways for our winter maintenance equipment must remain free of obstructions. This includes vehicles, refuse containers, or other equipment or implements. If obstructions are encountered, the Town's operation may skip the affected property frontage, and subsequent snow removal will be the responsibility of the property owner/occupant.

**Service Area**

The following areas of sidewalk in the Village Center will be maintained according to the standards of this policy by the Town of Fairfax.

Main Street (westerly side), from Bridge 09 to Huntville Road

Main Street (easterly side), from Fletcher Road to Hunt Street

Hunt Street, from Main Street to BFA Fairfax

School Street, from Main Street to Tyler Street

Recreational walking path from access on Maple Street to parking lot on Hunt Street